

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A handling device for holding a bearing liner which is to be introduced into the socket of an acetabular cup comprising a support provided with means for aligning said handling device with said acetabular cup and having an opening which has a deformable rim adapted to receive the outer circumference of the bearing liner to be inserted, said support having a planar first portion including said opening and a planar second portion pivotally coupled to said first portion, said planar second portion pivotal about a pivot point from a first position oriented at an angle to said plane of said first portion to a second position parallel to said plane of said first portion and overlying an upper outer rim of said bearing liner.

2. (previously presented) The handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means for alignment with said acetabular cup are formed by a substantially flat lower surface surrounding said opening.

3. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said support is in the form of a substantially flat plate.

4. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said support is made from a sheet material.

5. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said support is made from a synthetic plastics material.

6. (previously presented) The handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the support has a castellated rim surrounding said opening.

7. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 1 further comprising means for retaining the bearing liner in the opening in the support.

8. (original) The handling device as claimed in claim 7 wherein said retaining means are provided by said deformable rim which is adapted to resiliently grip the bearing liner.

9. (currently amended) The handling device as claimed in claim 7 wherein said retaining means includes said planar second portion, said second portion ~~are provided by a retainer~~ adapted to extend across the upper rim of the bearing liner.

10. (currently amended) The handling device as claimed in claim 9 wherein means are provided for securing the second portion ~~retainer~~ to the first portions ~~support~~.

11. (currently amended) The handling device as claimed in claim 9 wherein said second portion is retaining means are formed by an extended portion of the support which is bent back across the upper rim of the bearing liner.

12. (currently amended) The handling device as claimed in claim 9 wherein an said opening of said second portion retainer is of smaller dimensions than the upper outer rim of the bearing liner, said opening being aligned with the opening in the planar first portion support when in use.

13. (currently amended) The handling device as claimed in claim 9 wherein said planar second portion retainer is formed with a manually deformable portion which is aligned with said opening in the first portion support when in use.

Claims 14-17 (cancelled).

18. (currently amended) An instrument for aligning a liner ~~and in~~ an outer shell of a two-piece prosthetic acetabular cup, the liner having a tapered male surface and an open end for receiving a bearing element and a shell having a complimentary tapered female surface comprising:

a ~~retainer~~support having a first portion with an opening having a perimeter for resiliently gripping the liner adjacent the open end thereof, the perimeter being in the form of a plurality of resiliently deformable elements, said ~~retainer-support~~ first portion including a handle portion for allowing the alignment of the tapered male surface in the liner with the tapered female surface on the shell said ~~retainer-support~~ having a second portion pivotally coupled to said first portion and pivotal from a position parallel to said opening to a position angled with respect to said opening.

19. (currently amended) The instrument as set forth in claim 18 wherein the ~~retainer support~~ is made of plastic.

20. (currently amended) The instrument of claim 19 wherein the perimeter of the ~~retainer~~first portion surrounds an inner opening sized to receive an outer perimeter of the liner.

21. (original) The instrument of claim 20 wherein the resiliently deformable elements are formed by slits in said plastic extending radially outwardly from said inner perimeter of said opening.

22. (previously presented) The instrument as set forth in claim 18 wherein said second portion contacts said liner at the open end thereof for preventing said liner from moving out of engagement with said resilient elements upon insertion of said liner into said shell.

23. (currently amended) The instrument as set forth in claim 22 wherein the ~~retainer~~ support is made of plastic.

24. (currently amended) The instrument of claim 23 wherein the perimeter of the ~~retainer~~ first portion surrounds an inner opening sized to receive an outer perimeter of the liner.

25. (original) The instrument of claim 24 wherein the resiliently deformable elements are formed by slits in said plastic extending radially outwardly from said inner perimeter of said opening.

26. (original) The instrument as set forth in claim 22 wherein said first and second portions are connected by a hinged joint.

27. (original) The instrument as set forth in claim 26 wherein said hinged joint forms part of said handle.

Claims 28-33 (cancelled).